

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are amended. Claims 5-6 and 8 are withdrawn as directed toward a non-elected species. Claims 1-8 are pending and under consideration.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

In response to the Examiner's indication, at page 2 of the Office Action, that references AG, AH, and AI submitted with the IDS filed on March 29, 2004 have not been considered, because they do not include a concise explanation of relevance, applicants have filed concurrently herewith an Information Disclosure Statement including English language abstracts for each of these references. Thus, consideration of these abstracts is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at pages 2-3, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fiora (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,909).

Fiora does not discuss or suggest:

wherein said laying device comprises a straight relay connector for relaying an arm side section of the line element, extending through said hollow portion out of a lead-out opening formed on a side of said rotation shaft member, to a tool side section of the line element extending from the tool, so that a direction in which said straight relay connector connects the line element is substantially parallel to said tool mount surface and forms an angle other than 0° with regard to a radial direction perpendicular to the rotation axis,

as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides for a *straight* relay connector for relaying the arm side section of the line element to the tool side section of the line element. Furthermore, the invention of claim 1 provides that the direction of connection is substantially parallel to the tool mount surface and forms an angle other than zero degrees with a radial direction perpendicular to the rotation axis. Thus, the invention of claim 1 provides an interference area that is smaller than the conventional relaying portion. Fiora, as relied on by the Examiner, discloses relaying connectors 57 that are in the form of *elbow* connectors. As a result, Fiora does not provide that a direction in which said relay connector connects the line element is substantially parallel to said tool mount surface and forms an angle other than 0° with

regard to a radial direction perpendicular to the rotation axis. In fact, Fiora actually teaches away from claim 1.

Therefore, Fiora does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1, so that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Fiora. Accordingly, withdrawal of this § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claims 2-4 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 4-5, claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fiora in view of Szydel (U.S. Patent No. 5,777,267).

As discussed above, Fiora does not discuss or suggest all of the features of amended claim 1. Szydel fails to make up for this deficiency in Fiora. Specifically, Szydel does not discuss or suggest:

wherein said laying device comprises a straight relay connector for relaying an arm side section of the line element, extending through said hollow portion out of a lead-out opening formed on a side of said rotation shaft member, to a tool side section of the line element extending from the tool, so that a direction in which said relay connector connects the line element is substantially parallel to said tool mount surface and forms an angle other than 0° with regard to a radial direction perpendicular to the rotation axis,

as recited in claim 1, so that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Fiora and Szydel. Claim 7 depends directly from claim 1 and includes all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Withdrawn Claims

Claims 5-6 and 8 have been withdrawn as directed toward a non-elected species. Claims 5-6 and 8 each depend directly from claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art and is now in a condition suitable for allowance. Since claim 1 is a generic claim, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed March 27, 2007, Applicants respectfully request consideration of claims 5-6 and 8.

V. Requirement for Information Under 37 CFR 1.105

In the Office Action, at pages 5-6, information under 37 CFR 1.105 was required. In response to this requirement, it is submitted that the information required to be submitted is unknown to or is not readily available to the party or parties from which it was requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

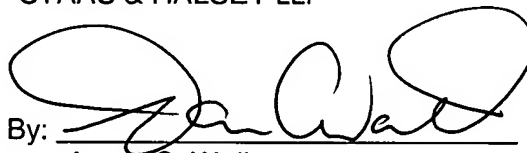
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10-15-07

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